

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of one danger media consolidation poses to democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when such large companies control the airwaves, their audiences get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, often with a hidden agenda, it's more important that we see a cross section of real people from our own communities and substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.